

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 18-41 are pending in this application. Claims 5 and 11-17 have been canceled. Claims 1, 6, 35, 37, 38, 40, and 41 have been amended. Support for the identical amendment that has been made to each of these claims can be found, for example, on page 4 of the specification as-filed. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment nor does this Amendment necessitate any additional search by the Office. Applicants respectfully submit that the above-detailed Amendment places this application in condition for allowance.

II. Combination Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-41 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the combination of Japanese Application No. JP 11-021227 to *Takeshi* ("Takashi") and U.S. Patent No. 5,976,510 to *Cernasov* ("Cernasov"). Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse this rejection for at least the reasons of record and the reasons set forth below.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness the Examiner must show that, *inter alia*, (1) there is a suggestion or motivation to combine the reference teachings, and that (2) all of the claimed elements are taught or suggested by the reference combination. M.P.E.P. § 2143. Neither of these requirements has been satisfied.

Nonetheless, Applicants provide herewith additional evidence of unexpected results. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the attached Rule 132 Declaration including supporting color photographs.

As no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been presented by the Examiner, and in view of the demonstration of unexpected results found in the attached Rule 132 Declaration, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Declaration Under 37 CFR § 1.132
 Information Disclosure Statement
 RCE